THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS TRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMII LAL SUMAN): (a) The information is not readily available. The same will bs collect' ed from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) The Government is aware of the fact that in spite of the law prohibiting child marriages, there have been cases of child marriages in some parts of the country. The practice of child marriage is deeply embedded amongst certain sections of the society and it is only through social and economic upliftment of these sections that the practice can be eradicated completely. A number of steps including stress on education have been taken by the Government for educating people about the consequence of the evil practice of child marriage through mass media, by involving voluntary organisations in the task and by other measures. These include radio programmes, exhibiting cinema slides, posters, short documentary films on T. V. and group discussions with rural women.

(d) The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, was amended in 1978 with a view to provide that offences under the Act shall be cognizable for the purpose of investigation and for all matters other than matters referred to in section 42 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (arrest on refusal to give name and residence) and the arrest of a person without a warrant or without an order of the magistrate. Thus the provisions of the Act are sufficiently stringent and no review is contemplated in this regard.

Commissioning of All India Radio overseas transmission station In Goa

1522. SHRI JOHN F. FERN ANDES; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present stage i. f work on the commissioning of All India Radio overseas transmission station in Goa; and

(b) by when it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The transmitter equipment has been received at Panaji. Civil works pertaining to the building have commenced. Functional areas of the building have been taken over for installation of transmitters and other technical equipment. Simultaneously, the aerial and feeder works have also commenced.

Studios for this project are to be installed in Bombay at the receiving site at Borivilli. The building lay out for the studios has been finalised and Preliminary Estimate sanctioned.

(b) The project envisaged to be technically ready for commissioning by Maich, 1992.

Protocol for Members of Parliament

1523. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state:

(a) what are the instructions laid down in the Blue Book relating to the "Protocol" for Members of Parliament with reference to reply to their letters by Council of Ministers, Government of India Senior Officials of public sector undertakings of Government of India, Council of Ministers of State Government/ senior officials of State Government/ senior officials of State Government Corporation;

(b) what is the procedure relating to the protocol when a Member of Parliament seeks an appointment for discussion relating to some problems with the above mentioned persons; and

(c) what is the proposal of Government to mitigate the problems being faced by Members of Parliament in respect of above matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH

KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Blue Book contains instructions regarding security arrangements of VVIPs. Details instructions regarding the procedure to be followed by officials of the Central Government and Union Territory Administrations in dealing with references from Members of Parliament and Members of State Legislatures as also the protocol to be observed while keeping appointments with them already exist and these were last reiterated by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions in June 1988. At the State level, it is for the State Governments to issue appropriate instructions in this regard.

Permission to foreign groups to visit Siachen Glacier

] 1524. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had in the past granted permission to conduct foreign groups to the Siachen Glacier, a highly sensitive area, with the help of the Ministry of Defence and the Indian Mountaineering Foundation during the last three years, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it i_s a fact that the same practice was discontinued later on; if so, when; and

(c) whether Government propose to revive the same practice of giving permission for conducted foreign groups to visit that sensitive areas; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) During the past three years permission had been granted for launching Indo-Japanese, Indo-American and Indo-Taiwanese Expeditions to the general area of Siachen Glacier. Expeditions are not allowed to enter areas where our troops are deployed or the Base Camp, leading to the Glacier. A Service Officer invariably accompanies each Expedition, as a Liaison Officer. The practice of granting permission to launch Expeditions to the general area of Siachen Glacier has not been discontinued.

Applicability of revised scale of Assistant/ Stenographer in Autonomous and Statutory Bodies

@@1525. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have revised the scale of pay of Assistant Grade of Central Secretariat Service and Grade 'C Stenographers of Central Secretariat Stenographers Service vide their OM No. 2/1/90-Cs. II/dated the 31st July, 1990. w. e. f. 1. 1. 1986;

(b) whether the same is applicable to autonomous and statutory bodies where the posts are in comparable grades with same classification and pay scale and where the recruitment is also through open corry>etitive examination;

(c) if so, whether the above stated bodies have implemented the said OM; if so. what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reason therefor; and by when the same is likely to be implemented in these bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The revised scale of pay is *per se* not applicable to autonomous bodies or the statutory bodies which are not participating in the C. S. S. set up.. It is for each such body to take a decision whether to adopt this revised pay scale or not. Some of the statutory bodies like the Election Commission of India which are participating in the same open competitive examination have already implemented the revrsed scale of pay.

@@ Previously Unstarred Question 848 answered on the 8th January, 1991